



Dear NAESP Member,

If selected to represent our organization as Vice President, I would use a multi-faceted approach to move our association forward beyond pandemic times by focusing on several key issues relevant to our profession.

- Create a forum on mental health issues to generate ideas on how to better support our students and staff. This forum would also include ideas on how NAESP can better support the well-being of our members and how we, as principals, can better support each other.
- Create a committee with the purpose of sharing ideas on how best to address the staff shortages we face in schools across the nation. This committee would also be tasked with creating and sharing ideas about increasing the flow of the teacher and principal pipelines.
- Increase diversity within the membership of NAESP, specifically focusing on increasing the diversity of our members who are active through all levels of governance and leadership.
- Part of my focus would be visiting and reaching out to schools in under-served areas to show the support and guidance NAESP can offer principals and the communities they serve.
- Through NAESP, I have met with many of our government officials, including the Secretary of Education, advocating on behalf of our profession. I plan to continue to serve as a robust voice in Washington and throughout the nation, telling our stories to help shape effective education policy.

Change can never be reached without a unified voice. We are the experts. Together our voices allow us to write our own narratives. It would be my honor to serve our profession and NAESP as the next Vice President.

Sincerely,

Thomas Payton
Principal, Roanoke Avenue Elementary School
Riverhead, New York